SYMBOLS OF SAFETY

When fire strikes, the red and white fire alarm box looms as an urgent symbol of safety. It's a modern safety device that protects your home and your property. Another modern symbol of safety is your Provincial Treasury Branch. It's as permanent as Alberta itself!

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO INSURE!

Better protection for fire than an alarm box is an Alberta Government Fire Insurance policy. See your local Treasury Branch for rates.

TB4-48

PROVINCIAL TREASURY BRANCHES

Ottawa

BUDGET MAY BE TIP OFF

With the political talk along Parliament Hill seemingly becoming more and more intensified lately, veteran and impartial observers are now hinting that when the Canadian Government's coming annual budget is presented in the House of Commons by finance minister Abbott shortly, there may be a tip-off whether or not there will be a general election in this country late this year this being based on the theory that important tax cuts might prove informative on this "hot" question.

It is known that the Governments surplus at the end of the present fiscal year is going to be about $800,000,000 or so, with finance minister Abbott having said that it may be "of such magnitude as to bring a glow to the heart of any Canadian Minister of finance". However it is also known in well-informed quarters here that powerful inflationary pressures would be released if drastic tax cuts were made at this time. As a result, no really sharp all-round tax cuts such as anticipated by the man in the street, might be forthcoming except under one condition namely, if the government expected to appeal to the people in a general election this year. Under these conditions aside from possible elimination or reduction of so-called "nuisance taxes" including the eight per cent sales tax and minor changes here or there, any sweeping tax cuts could be interpreted as a tip-off on an early appeal to the people.

WHAT IS BEHIND THE ORDER

Following the petition from the Transportation Commission of the Maritime Board of Trade and representations made on behalf of the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia together with a flood of protests by members of the House of Commons two important orders-in-council PC 1486 and 1487 have been tabled giving effect to a decision of the Canadian Government to order a "thorough investigation of the rate structure of railways and railway companies which are under the jurisdiction of Parliament with a view to the establishment of a fair and reasonable rate structure which will under substantially similar circumstances and conditions be equal in its application to all persons and localities so as to permit the freest possible exchange of commodities between the various provinces and territories of Canada and the extension of Canadian trade, both foreign and domestic, having due regard to the needs of agriculture and other basic industries."

In other words, this means that the Board of Transport Commissioners are now in a position, for the first time in 23 years, to look into the general freight rate structure across Canada with the object of removing inequalities, not to pass a judgement on their recent decision about higher rates for the railways. There seems to be a false impression among many Canadians that the 18 months inquiry which led to the decision favoring higher rates had investigated the inequalities. This is not true. The recent inquiry did not consider or deal in any way with the matter of any existing inequalities or differentials in freight rates between various sections of the country.

Furthermore, it is learned here that there is no way, at the moment of knowing ho wlong the new inquiry will take, that no Royal Commission could carry out such a freight rate structure study since under the Railway act, there is a section that requires the Board to do so unless an amendment is passed, Parliament allowing a change thereby in the procedure, that under the terms of reference in the new order in council authorizing the latest inquiry "mountain differential" can be investigated, that this new inquiry will be a thorough investigation of all freight rates.

NO INTERRUPTION

For some time now rumor after rumor has been heard about financial difficulties between Britain and Canada likely interrupting the export of food from this country to the United Kingdom. However it is understood here that not only will a satisfactory financial arrangement allow existing food contracts between the two countries to be carried out but it is recognized here that Canada should not in any way discontinue shipments into the United Kingdom, even temporarily which may force the people of Britain to cut down on their already pretty low rations.

Obviously, much of the unauthorized stories about financial difficulties leading to serious curtailment of food shipments from Canada to Britain this year are not well-founded, judging from information gathered along Parliament Hill where it is evident that there is no intention to interrupt such essential food shipments.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE?

With a report here indicating that for the eighth successive year there has been an increase in the number of divorces granted in Canada, numbering 7,942 in the past year or 259 more than the preceding year, there are heard on Parliament Hill all sorts of comments about this development though the most frequent is

(continued on page 5)

Greep's Electric

WE WILL HAVE A SMALL VARIETY OF TOYS AND GAMES

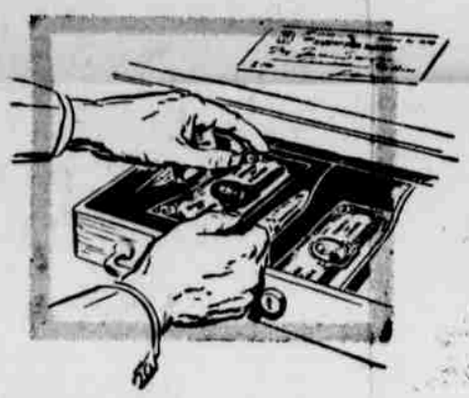
ON HAND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Electrical Appliances

of ALL Kinds

Radio Repairs

House Wiring



Handling money

***costs* money**

It costs you more to live these days.

And it costs your bank more to provide efficient banking service.

Bank staffs are more than half as large again as before the war; payrolls have nearly doubled. Taxes are up. So is the cost of everything banks buy.

Yet you pay no more for banking service than you did ten years ago. Today 7,000,000 Canadians are bank customers—striking evidence of the ever-widening usefulness of competitive banking in our national life.

SPONSORED BY YOUR BANK

THE FARM ACCOUNT BOOK AND INCOME TAX GUIDE SAVES FARMERS TIME, TROUBLE AND MONEY

SAVES YOU TIME—You will find that a few minutes a week keeps your Farm Account Book up-to-date. The first 15 pages of your new Farm Account Book tell a straight story about what is required from farmers. Your problems are dealt with in question and answer form and an index refers you quickly to the section you want. The pages and columns for accounts are numbered to correspond with the items on the Income Tax Return form itself. You can make an accurate record of all farm dealings as you go along.

If You Haven't Received Your Copy, Get It Now— FREE AT YOUR POST OFFICE

SAVES MONEY BY SHOWING YOU HOW—Every farmer legally is entitled to deductions for a wide variety of expenses. Your Farm Account Book has 12 pages devoted to columns for these. You are reminded of items which otherwise you might forget. Depreciation, a big factor, is covered on 75 named articles in common farm use.

You are shown how to establish claims for a Basic Herd and make a Three-Year-Average of your returns. This latter gives you the advantage of the lowest possible tax and it may be dated back to 1946. These are direct money-saving advantages entirely to your benefit.

THE THREE YEAR AVERAGE

You can't lose if you take advantage of this. Two things are necessary to average your income over the three year period ending December 31, 1948. First your 1947 return MUST BE FILED ON TIME—that is, by April 30, 1948. Then when you file your 1948 return in 1949 you may make application to average your income for 1946-1947-1948. This averaging of income continues yearly so that in each year you are taxed only on the average of each three year period.

REMEMBER — HALF CULTIVATED LAND YIELDS A POOR CROP—HALF KEPT ACCOUNTS GIVE POOR RESULTS TOO

Last year Canadian farmers—and there are nearly a million of them—produced over $2,000,000,000 in farm produce of all kinds. No other single industry approaches agriculture in volume of production. And as in every other business—even the smallest—every farmer must file an account of his transactions with the Department of National Revenue to qualify for the many tax exemptions which are allowed.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

(Taxation Division)